THE

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

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LEECHES.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE following letter from Dr. Nichols, of Kingston, on the preservation and propagation of leeches, was read at the last meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and by them referred to the Committee on Publications. As it contains information of a highly interesting character to the profession and to the community at large, it is now, with the consent of the author, laid before the public.

To the Corresponding Secretary of the Mass. Med. Society.

DEAR SIR,—The great trouble and frequent impossibility of procuring leeches in the country, when I have felt the need of them, has induced me to seek out some way of preserving, and if possible, of propagating them. And I now take the liberty of communicating to you, and through you, to the Massachusetts Medical Society (should you think it worth the trouble), the result thus far of my experiment.

Some time last autumn, I was furnished with about a hundred foreign leeches. They were in a very unpromising state for preservation, having all been recently used and thrown aside for a time, then crowded into a small box, gorged with blood, and transported in this state over thirty miles. I had a box prepared about fourteen inches square, and six inches deep, covered with a lid so constructed as to admit air and light. Within this was a smaller box perforated. The inner box was filled with clay, the outer one with river water. Into this double box (which was provided with a stopcock for changing the water), I put the above-mentioned leeches. Six or eight weeks afterwards, I received about as many more, in the same unpromising state. Not wishing to mix them, I removed those first boxed into bottles of water, and found them well cleansed, and apparently healthy—with the very small loss of not more than four per cent. The parcel last received, I put into the box as before, occasionally changing the water, where they cleansed themselves, and were successfully preserved during the winter. Finding it inconvenient to change the water in the bottles as often as it was necessary in the cold weather, I prepared another box, about nine inches square, of the same depth, and covered with a lid as the first, but single, which I filled with common brick clay, broken up and moistened with water; and into it I put this parcel of leeches, and preserved them during the winter, by merely sprinkling them once in a week or ten days.

From these boxes (and mostly from the single one) I used from time to time during the season, in my own practice, as nearly as I can recollect, from three to four dozen. I also furnished my professional brethren Drs. Hayward and Warren of Plymouth, and Wild of Duxbury, with as many more. While I was using them in this way, I was often pleased to discover among them those of different sizes, from half an inch to an inch long, which I knew I had not put there, convincing me that my object was accomplished. And in the spring, on removing the clay and counting, I found, to my great joy, that my stock nearly held good.

Now, Sir, I have to express my conviction that this is not the best that can be done, and that I expect in future to do *very much better*. For during all this time I had been inattentive to the *manner* of their propagating, not recollecting that the leech is an *oviparous* animal; and every time that I rashly disturbed the clay to get a leech, I probably destroyed the eggs of a dozen. It was not till I accidentally found the cocoons amongst the clay last spring, that I was warned of the impropriety of disturbing the clay in taking the leech. This is easily avoided; for sprinkling with a little water will cause them to rise to the surface, and enable you to take them off at pleasure. I send you two of the broken cocoons, which I accidentally found, and shall probably be able to send you more, if desired, in a more perfect state.

At present my box of clay has not been broken up since the first of June; and by moistening it to-day (as I am often doing) for the purpose of taking some out for use, I find some of very small size; which causes me to hope, and confidently believe, that I shall be able, by-and-by, to render you a more satisfactory account, should you wish it.

Permit me, from what I have already observed to express to you my firm belief, that any of our brethren, situated as I am, in the country, may save themselves much trouble and expense by a little attention to this matter, and by purchasing fifty leeches, may by a very little care keep themselves provided for their life time. It was my intention, at our last annual meeting, to have made some statement on this subject to the whole Society; but want of time and opportunity prevented. My object is to do good, and if in your hands these imperfect suggestions can be made in any way conducive to that end, I am happy to submit them.

Kingston, Aug. 20, 1840. With great respect, truly yours,

P. L. Nichols.

A MEDICAL QUESTION.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

A young man, aged about 20 years, son of a farmer, left New England and resided in Virginia, an assistant teacher in a private school, for nearly two years, and returned home again to the labors of the farm. In this period he had suffered no illness, and on his return resumed, at once, with spirit, his share of work. His parents and family were not aware of any bodily indisposition, but it did not escape their notice that his

moral character had undergone a great change. From being a mild, pleasant and forbearing young man, he was now hasty, testy, impatient and morose, to such a degree that his friends feared he was insane—"crazy." Notwithstanding he followed his labor, indefatigably, and without complaining of indisposition, it was not many weeks after his return when it became obvious that he was losing flesh, and he was persuaded, very reluctantly, to have medical advice. He would not admit, to the physician, that he suffered pain of any kind—said his appetite was good, as it really was, and that food never oppressed him. His respiration was without any embarrassment, and the circulations seemed to be undisturbed—and with the exception of slow bowels and a rather dry and cool skin, he might have been thought to be in health.

This was his condition, without essential change, for weeks and months—restless, hurried, impatient, and all the time growing thinner—emaciating. At length, after some months, he became quiet, was negligent and indifferent, indisposed to labor or to much exertion of any kind, rambled about from place to place without object, avoiding society, and apparently taking no interest in the occurrences of the time. Still he would not allow that he was sick. The appetite continued good—but the bowels became more and more torpid, and were now seldom moved but by the use of drastic cathartics. At length this state of calm and indifference gradually resulted in loss of mental power. He became stupid, fatuous, lethargic, and finally apoplectic—and so died. Some few weeks before his death he had cough and expectoration of muco-purulent matter. He died about two years after his return from Virginia.

From this brief history of the leading symptoms in the case, can you or your correspondents account for this young man's death? The medical treatment is omitted in this sketch, as it had no great effect apparently in the progress of the disease. A more detailed account of this singular case is in preparation. But in the mean time, the writer would be glad to avail himself of professional speculations and opinions from this summary. F.

Dec. 2, 1840.

PRECOCITY IN A BOY.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

The case of precocious puberty in a female child mentioned in your Journal of Dec. 2, reminded me of quite a curious instance in a boy now living with his parents in this vicinity.

William S. W*** was five years old on the 9th of last August. At his birth he weighed eight pounds. During the first twelve months he did not grow with very remarkable rapidity; at eighteen months he had become uncommonly large, and has ever since continued to grow rapidly. He began to walk when about one year old, and to talk distinctly about a year later. Until within a few months he has been sprightly and energetic in all his movements. During the summer past

he has lost several pounds of flesh, and has seemed feeble and reluctant to engage in his ordinary amusements. He has never been very fat; on the contrary, rather lean. His appetite, until he was 2½ years old, was delicate, and milk was his principal nourishment; after that period he began to relish other kinds of food and to eat largely, as much so at times as an ordinary laboring man. The parents suspect, that not having been with them during the past summer, the boy has suffered for want of a proper allowance of nutritious food, and to the latter circumstance, chiefly, they attribute his loss of flesh and activity. At the age of four years the child weighed 60 pounds avoirdupois; and when he was five years old his weight was 70 pounds, although, as his father stated, "he was quite thin at the time." His height is four feet six inches. His body is rather long in proportion to his limbs; when his health is good, his muscular strength is proportionate to his size.

The organs of generation began to exhibit an unusual development as early as the eighteenth month, and are now nearly of the adult size. There is a trifling growth of hair on the pubes. There is no evidence of excessive sexual desire, although on this point the parents are unable to speak decidedly. His voice for more than a year has been on the bass key.

He has habits of quick and accurate observation; his memory is retentive, and his mind of an inquisitive cast. He reads fluently in easy lessons, but no efforts of any description have been made to draw out his mental powers. His head is large; and, regarded phrenologically or otherwise, is well shaped. He is readily moved to tears—and injury produces grief rather than anger. His resentments, when they do arise, are rather sudden than lasting. Occasionally he indulges in bursts of mirth, but commonly his deportment is grave, with a prevailing air of melancholy.

In all the peculiarities of the boy there is a close resemblance to the early history of the father, who is now about 35 years of age, and who acquired his present stature at the age of *nine years*. The family from which the father's mother sprung has presented several instances of similar precocity, all of which occurred in the *male* descendants. In these instances there was uniformly the same peculiar conformation and want of symmetrical figure, produced by a long trunk surmounted upon short limbs.

There is one other circumstance connected with the ancestry of this lad, which although not absolutely pertinent and necessary to be related here, is exceedingly interesting to me, and I dare say will be so to a majority of your readers. I am induced to mention it, because it may serve as a key to modulate our expectations in regard to the future destiny of the child. The father is one of the ripest and most accomplished scholars in New England, and has for several years been distinguished and publicly praised for his poetical talents; and before he reached his 23d year he wrote a learned essay, which, although opposed by several rivals, won a premium offered for the best production on the given subject. The father's mother was likewise remarkable for intellectual endowments, and one rare attribute of her mind was that

whatever she read was retained in her memory like a nail driven in a sure place. SILAS DURKEE.

Lynn, Dec. 1840.

OPERATION FOR CLUB-FOOT.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—I send you a short history of a case which accidentally came under my observation, believing the cause of humanity may be promoted by your inserting it in your valuable and extensively circulating Journal, that the afflicted may be informed where to apply for relief.

Miss Sawtell, of Groton, æt. 10, general health good, muscles well developed, had what is termed double varus of the third degree, as bad as it could well be, as the foot was nearly vertical. The point of support was the outer ankle, nearly up to the end of the fibula, and the foot so completely turned that the sole looked nearly upwards. The unnatural points of support were most of the time so much inflamed as to be very painful, and many times so much so as to prevent sleep. Walking, or rather hobbling, was exceedingly difficult and painful, precluding all expectation of her limbs ever being of much service to her. Upon being informed of the improvements in surgery, and of the skill and success of Dr. John B. Brown, of Boston, her friends determined to place her under his care, which they did the 14th of May last, where she remained until the 23d of August, when she returned with her feet entirely changed, so that she placed the sole of the foot perfectly upon the floor, with the soles in the position they should be, in relation to the limb, neither in nor out too much. When the muscles and tendons have had time to become accustomed to their present position, and regain full strength, I think it will be a case of complete success, and that she will not only walk with ease, but elegance. A. H. WILDER, M.D.

Groton, Ms., Dec. 4, 1840.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE.

[OUR correspondent was too late for the object he had in view. We are obliged to him, however, for his attention.]

This Society was incorporated by the Legislature of the State in the year 1822, under the title of "The President and Fellows of the Medical Society of Delaware." Its charter is perpetual. Its meetings are annual or occasional. The former are held on the second Tuesday of May; the latter at the call of the President and Fellows. These meetings may be held at any place within the State. An oration and two lectures are to be delivered before the Society at each annual meeting. The officers of the corporation are a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and four Censors, who hold office for one year. Candidates for Fellowship must be nominated to the Society by a mem-

ber, and may be elected by the votes of a majority of those present. The Society has power to elect by ballot a Medical Board of Examiners for the State of Delaware, whose duty it is, by law, to grant license to practise medicine and surgery in the State to any person applying therefor, who shall produce a diploma from a respectable medical college or be found qualified upon full and impartial examination. The penalty for practising without such license is a fine, in every case, of not less than fifty dollars, nor more than one thousand dollars, according to the discretion of the court. An exception to this last provision has been made by the Legislature, within the last four years, in favor of Thomsonian practitioners. The following is a list of the officers of the Society for the year ending May, 1841, viz.:—*President*, James Couper, M.D., of New Castle. *Vice President*, John D. Perkins, M.D., of Smyrna. *Treasurer*, William W. Morris, M.D., of Dover. *Secretary*, Isaac Jump, M.D., of Dover. *Censors*, Drs. H. F. Askew, C. H. Black, W. W. Wolfe, J. I. Gillis. *Medical Board of Examiners:* For New Castle County, Drs. I. Thomson, C. S. Green, H. F. Askew, I. S. Naudain, C. H. Black. For Kent County, Drs. S. M. Fisler, W. W. Morris, G. S. Layton, H. Ridgely, W. Cummins. For Sussex County, Drs. W. W. Wolfe, Maull, Dingle, J. I. Gillis, Rickards. *Orator*, Henry F. Askew, M.D., of Wilmington. *Lecturers*, Drs. I. D. Perkins and I. L. Mitchell.

The Society will meet in the City of Wilmington on the 2d Tuesday of May, 1841.

CASE OF OSSEOUS FORMATION IN THE EYE.

BY JOHN JEFFRIES, M.D., SURGEON OF THE MASSACHUSETTS EYE INFIRMARY.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

Thos. Cummings, aged 22, a native of London, England, by trade a tailor, had his cheek burnt, when two years old, from the left eye to the mouth. The eschar of this has never produced ectropium; but he had inflammation of the eye at that time and subsequently. His eye never recovered wholly from this, but continued weak and subject to inflammation, with the vision becoming defective, until, at ten years of age, the sight of that eye was wholly lost. The attacks of inflammation were then as frequent as every six months, and subsequently more frequent. In 1825 the eye was much inflamed, and painful all the winter and part of the next summer. In September, 1826, the right eye became inflamed, and the left was relieved of pain. About March, 1827, the pain had returned more severely in the left eye, and extended across the nose to the right eye; from this he had never been free up to the time of his admission into the Infirmary. The pain was sometimes mitigated, but never wholly relieved. Light became more and more intolerable until the photophobia was insupportable. He had a sense of pressure in the left eye extending to the back of the head. He could not bear the light but for a few moments at a time, and was compelled

in general to cover the eye with a bandage. His nights were sleepless. He was pale, wan and emaciated, dispirited in mind, and appeared to be wasting under the severity and duration of his sufferings.

This was his condition at the time of his admission into the Infirmary, July 6, 1839. The appearance of the eyes at this time was this. The globes of both eyes were small and sunken; the left was still less in size than the right. The right globe was unusually firm to the touch—the lids were soft, and the skin flabby and weak. The conjunctiva was loose and considerably injected. The straight vessels were distinct under the conjunctiva, and there was a slight zone around the cornea. The iris was sound, and the pupil of natural size and clear. In the left eye the conjunctiva was not inflamed. The globe was quite hard and had lost its whiteness. The cornea was clear, but flattened. The iris had lost its color, but retained something of its striated appearance; it was immovable, and at the pupil, which was of half its natural size, it was adherent to the lens. The lens was of a light brown color, and in union with the iris bulged forward into the anterior chamber; it appeared to be disorganized and indurated. I supposed that the pressure of the lens upon the iris in this eye was the cause of his sufferings in both eyes, and that it must be extracted before he could be much relieved. After occasional local depletion, which always gave him some ease, I operated to remove the lens on the 15th July, 1839. A full section of the cornea was easily made, but as soon as the lens was touched by the curette it fell to the bottom of the globe, and there was a discharge of dirty water from the globe. This showed that the textures were disorganized, and as the lens could not be removed through the cornea under these circumstances, a horizontal section was made of the sclerotic including the iris, and the lens was readily removed by the ring forceps. It proved, on examination, to be a distinct ossification. The pain across the nose and in the right eye was immediately removed by the operation, and the pain at the fundus and in the head was much relieved. This relief continued for about a week, when the pain returned in the bottom of the eye and in the head; and shortly after there was again something of the painful stricture across the nose. The distress in the eye increased in aggravation. He could not lie a moment on his back or side without agonizing pain at the bottom of the eye and through the head. His position was to lie on his face with his fingers pressing upon the sides of the globe as if to press it forward. The wound from the operation readily healed, and the globe became again full and hard.

As he obtained no relief from such slight local depletion as he could bear, and was daily sinking under his sufferings, it was deemed inevitable that his eye should be extirpated. This I did on the 30th of August, 1839. Although he was exceedingly feeble at the time of the operation, and suffered much by it, he was immediately relieved by the removal, saying that he felt like a new man. He recovered pretty well from the operation, with the exception that he was retarded by trichiasis for a short time. He had, however, frequent turns of inflammation of the right eye, which remained hard to the touch and very sensitive to the light—so much so, that for some months it appeared doubtful if the

right eye was not taking on the same disorganizing action that had destroyed the left. He however ultimately recovered, and in the summer of 1840 was enabled to support himself as a domestic in one of the large hotels of the city.

Section of the Globe.—On opening into the globe, from the anterior part to the entrance of the optic nerve, it was found to contain a dark-colored serum. There was no appearance of the lens or capsule, nor of the vitreous humor or retina. On one side there was an osseous formation, extending from the roots of the ciliary processes quite back to the papillary eminence of the optic nerve as it enters the globe. This deposit was about two lines in width. At the anterior part it had the appearance of dense ligament or cartilage, but it soon became distinct bone towards the middle of the eye. At its posterior extremity, where it met the optic nerve, it presented spiculi of bone, the points of which would prick the nerve when the globe was drawn back by the muscles. This appearance accounted for the relief which pressure, transversely, afforded him, which by lengthening the globe in a direction forward would draw the points of bone from the optic nerve. The portion of bone appeared to be a new formation, and not the change of structure of another texture. It was attached by one surface to the choroid, and the other surface was presented to the cavity of the globe. The choroid was entire under the deposit, and indeed did not exhibit much appearance of disease, excepting that the pigmentum nigrum was deficient.

This is the only case of distinct osseous formation that I have ever met with in the eye. I have seen the other textures of the eye become ossified, as was the case with the lens in the globe; but not a new formation of bone as this was. The cases on record of ossification of the textures of the globe are not unfrequent; and there are some, as in Wardrop, where a piece of bone was found between the choroid and retina, which like this appeared to be new deposits of bone.

Boston, Dec. 11, 1840.

WORMS IN THE LUNGS OF SWINE.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

A FEW days since, my lady brought into my office four worms, which protruded themselves from a portion of the lungs of a swine which had been butchered three or four hours previous to the discovery. She had cut a piece from the lower part of one of the lobes and thrown it upon the gridiron to broil for a favorite cat. As it became more than naturally heated, she saw them rising out of their cells, contorting themselves into every conceivable manner of figures. They were alive and in motion when I first saw them, but ceased to move soon after. The longest measured two and a half inches in length—the others, from one and a half to two inches. When viewed by the microscope, they resembled, except in size, the ascaris lumbricoides as described by Dr. Good (Study of Medicine, Vol. I., p. 200). I regret exceedingly, that, being called away in haste, I did not preserve them, and that I had not an oppor-

tunity of examining the remaining part of the lungs. These worms were represented to me as coming from cells enlarged by their presence, the walls of which were hardened and thickened. The shote from which the lungs were taken was eight or nine months old when killed, and fattened under my own observation. It fatted well, and I never had supposed that it was in the least diseased. E. G. Wheeler.

Unionville, Dec. 9, 1840.

POSTAGE.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Sir,—We observed in your Journal, the other day, a short communication signed C., under the head of *Vexatious Postage*. Your correspondent protests against the imposition sometimes practised by booksellers and publishers, by sending their circulars through the post-office, and taxing him with the postage of their own letters. This seems to be a trifling affair to be made the subject of a formal complaint, but still it is an imposition in the form of a tax, and however small may be the sum, it will never be quietly submitted to by the descendants of the old Boston *Tea Party*. We know not that editors and publishers have any exclusive privilege of taxing individuals through the post-office for the circulation of their advertising bills. With as much propriety might the merchant of New York or Boston send his shop-bills through the country by mail, containing the important information that he had on hand a splendid assortment of superfine broadcloths and cassimeres, which he was selling off at reduced prices for cash only, and leave the individuals to whom the letters were addressed to pay the postage. We have generally disposed of such documents by enclosing them in blank wrappers, and sending them by mail to the place from whence they were issued—notwithstanding the never-varying rule of the fraternity, that all letters addressed to them must be *post-paid*. D.

INFLUENCE OF PROFESSIONS ON HEALTH.

[Prof. Fuchs, of Wurtzburg, in Germany, has lately given to the public some interesting observations, in a work entitled "A Statistical Memoir on the Influence of various Professions on the Health and Mortality of Mechanics and Artizans in the prime of life; founded on the Tables of the Institution for Sick Mechanics in Wurtzburg from 1786 to 1834." It will prove a valuable addition to medical statistics, and with other works on the subject of the influence of professions on health, will assist in bringing the laws relating to this important part of hygiène within the knowledge of the profession. The following is the concluding part of a notice of Prof. Fuch's labors, in the last No. of the British and Foreign Medical Review.]

To sum up the results of this investigation, in reply to the question—"What influence have professions on the morbility and mortality, inde-

pendently of the form of malady: what professions are healthy, what unhealthy, and why are they so?" Dr. Fuchs lays down these inferences:—

1. The influence of professions on the morbility and mortality in general is remarkable; the difference in these respects between particular professions is great.

2. The mortality and morbility do not always proceed in the same ratio. Many professions have great numbers sick and few deaths—and the reverse: only 8 professions (see table) are equally distinguished by a high morbility and relative mortality; and 16 others have few sick and proportionally few deaths.

3. According to the absolute *mortality*—according to the loss which a given number of individuals belonging to the same profession suffer in a year—22 professions are unhealthy, 34 are healthy.

4. Some agencies regulate the frequency of sickness (morbility), others the fatality of diseases (relative mortality); and hence it is clear that in particular professions the number of sick, while in others the number of deaths, will be high, without the one invariably answering to the other.

5. The absolute mortality, on the contrary, is only influenced by causes which either uniformly raise or lower the morbility and relative mortality, or exercise a *preponderating influence* on one of them; and is therefore, although its oscillations are generally of a more limited extent, the surest measure of the salubrity of professions.

The results of the present investigations appear then to indicate that the following circumstances connected with professions augment the mortality:—slight muscular exercise, bad wages, constant sitting, the bent posture, exposure to changes of temperature, low spirits, cold, moist air, cold dry air, working in-doors, mineral dust. They confirm the conclusions of Dr. Lombard with regard to the unfavorable influence of penury and misery on health, one of the best-established principles in statistics. A sedentary life is shown by each series of observations to be injurious. That education promotes health is, on the contrary, established by both. With regard to the influence of dusts and vapors, the results differ; in fact, neither possessed the means of deciding this question.

This memoir displays great industry, accuracy, and considerable acquaintance with statistics; in many respects it merits more attention than anything that has yet been written on the hygiène of professions. One capital fact it establishes, that in favorable circumstances 1 man in 4, or 22.8 per cent., has an attack of sickness annually; or, more precisely, 23 per cent. apply to friendly societies on the ground of sickness.

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, DECEMBER 16, 1840.

LIBRARY OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE.

Another beautiful volume of the series under the editorial supervision of Dr. Tweedie, from the press of Messrs. Lea & Blanchard, has reached New England, which demands something more than a mere passing record. It is due the publishers to speak of the unexceptionable manner in which the mechanical part of the work is executed, since typographical excellence is appreciated by medical men as much as by any other denomination of readers. A firm, white paper, and a clear, distinct letter, are certainly recommendations that cannot be overlooked by those who have any taste in the appearance of a volume destined to hold an abiding place in a well-selected library.

Here are twenty-four elaborate dissertations on exceedingly important medical subjects, emanating from elevated sources, and exhibiting as much talent and deep research as can be found in the annals of modern medicine. The character of each essay, however, is enhanced, valuable as they were before, by the critical contributions and elucidations of Dr. Gerhard, of Philadelphia. He is doing good service—and it requires no prophetic promptings to discover that his indefatigable industry will greatly promote the interests and dignity of medical science in the United States.

Dr. Bennett is the author of seventeen of the twenty-four articles, embraced within the compass of 551 royal octavo pages. In fact, the essential part of the whole book was written by him. There is a depth of thought—a soundness of philosophy—together with a practical value, apparent in each article, rarely equalled by other writers. This is praising strongly, and almost without qualification; but in withholding a commendation that is felt to be proper, we should be wronging him, in the estimation of American practitioners, who should be persuaded to study these finished productions of a very gifted man.

Drs. James Hope, J. C. Prichard, R. H. Taylor and Theophilus Thomson, are the other authors who have contributed to the present undertaking. Neither of them, however, successful as they may have been in the departments to which the powers of their minds have been devoted, shine so conspicuously as Dr. Bennett. The dissertations embrace the following topics, viz.:—Diseases of the nervous system; inflammation of the brain; hydrocephalus; apoplexy; insanity; delirium tremens; cephalalgia; epilepsy; catalepsy, and allied affections; spinal irritation; spinal meningitis; myelitis, or inflammation of the spinal cord; hydrorachitis; spinal apoplexy; chorea; hysteria; tetanus; hydrophobia; neuralgia; paralysis; barbiers; inflammation of the eye; amaurosis, and inflammation of the ear.

We would not be understood as insisting upon the absolute perfection of these dissertations: on the contrary, there are loop-holes and sand bars to be met with, that may stagger those who are conversant with the whole system of medical literature. There are expressions that may ex-

cite surprise, not so much by their novelty as their commonness. Nevertheless, as a whole, the essays are unsurpassed, in modern times, in clearness, method and good sense.

Whether the publishers of the Library meet with encouragement or not, we have not been apprised. Certainly we hope they will find a ready sale. In this hope, perhaps, there is selfishness mingled with patriotism. If the series is continued, as seems to be contemplated, we expect to share the advantages that will accrue to the profession. If the enterprise languishes, or finally fails altogether, the loss will be one that should be deplored. A complaint is not unfrequently made that practitioners do not sufficiently sustain American publishers. This, to some extent, may be true; yet it is believed that in proportion to their numbers, and considering how poorly they are compensated for their services, they do far more than the members of the other liberal professions towards sustaining the trade.

Massachusetts Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary.—Drs. Jeffries and Reynolds have made a report of their joint surgical labors in this institution, in 1840; from which it appears that, for the year ending the 29th of October, the whole number of patients treated at the Institution is 710. Of these the out-patients were 610; received and treated in the house, 100. With diseases of the eye, 564; with diseases of the ear, 146. The results of the diseases in the house, at the time of leaving, were:—Recovered, 43; much improved and recovering, 18; improved, 4; no improvement, 15; not treated, 9; under treatment, 11.

Our readers are referred to an important communication in this day's Journal from Dr. Jeffries. The formation of *bone within the eye* is indeed an extraordinary occurrence, which an operator less skilled than our respected correspondent, might not have detected.

Army Meteorological Journal.—This is a compactly-printed document of 161 octavo pages, that redounds to the honor of the Surgeon-general of the United States Army, Thomas Lawson, M.D., under whose direction the immense mass of materials of which it is composed, was methodized and put into its present correct and scientific form. It is a meteorological register for the years 1826-27-28-29 and 30—appended to which is a meteorological register for 1822-23-24 and 25, compiled under the supervision of the late Dr. Joseph Lovell, the predecessor of Dr. Lawson. As far back as 1819, under the direction of the Secretary of War, a system of meteorological observations was commenced, and zealously prosecuted by the lamented Dr. Lovell. Dr. Lawson, in the prefatory remarks, says, "As the observations presented, extend over the entire domain of our States and Territories, it may reasonably be assumed that the results exhibit a fair expression of the general laws of our climate," &c. We are delighted with the orderly manner in which the tables are constructed—the perfect finish discoverable on every page; and, lastly, we are greatly obliged to Dr. Lawson for having remembered us with a copy. When a few other papers are disposed of, we shall again advert to this valuable compilation.

Address at the Funeral of Caleb Ticknor, M.D.—Unusual as it may be to notice an address like this in a purely scientific periodical, we should

certainly feel that a duty had been neglected, were the admirable discourse delivered by the Rev. Adam Reid, at Salisbury, Conn., Sept. 23, 1840, passed over in silence. It is an eloquent, yet a solemn eulogium, which, while it reminds us of our own mortality, brings into vivid remembrance the powerful intellect that once animated the remains of him over whom this beautiful tribute was delivered. Dr. Ticknor was indeed a loss to the world; but no one can estimate the severity of the affliction to a bereaved family. The reverend gentleman need not have apologized for his work; it will stand the ordeal of literary criticism, and be regarded as an evidence of his christian benevolence.

Edwards's Outlines of Physiology.—A short time since we announced that Dr. J. F. W. Lane was engaged upon the translation of that portion of this valuable work, which would prove interesting to the medical student not less than to the reader in general. We now learn that the work is shortly to be issued from the press of Messrs. Little & Brown, and in their best style. The work is divided into the several parts of anatomy and physiology, according to the functions and the organs engaged in their performance, and embraces just so much of the animal kingdom as will illustrate the human apparatus. It is embellished with numerous handsome engravings adapted to the text, and will form, it is believed, when finished, a volume worthy of a place in any library, and of the name of the author of the original, H. Milne Edwards.

The Medical Almanac for 1841.—Besides the statistics of the medical schools and hospitals, there is contained in this volume many articles of practical value, viz., one on Insanity and Institutions for the Insane in the United States, by S. B. Woodward, M.D., of Worcester; Short Sentences on Auscultation, by H. I. Bowditch, M.D., Boston, embracing a mass of instruction in this important branch of medical practice; on Auscultatory Percussion, by D. J. Macgowan, M.D., of New York; Statistics of Phrenology in the United States; Surgical Operations in Hartford County, Ct., by A. Brigham, M.D., Hartford; Division of the Muscles of the Eye for Strabismus, by J. H. Dix, M.D., of Boston; Dislocations, by Robert Capen, M.D.; Wounds from Dissection, by J. F. W. Lane, M.D.; Burns and Scalds, by Edward Warren, M.D., Cambridge; on the Respirator, or Breath Warming Instrument, by H. I. Bowditch, M.D.; &c. &c. To all the medical journals with which we exchange, copies were sent last week. It being compactly printed, they can be sent by mail to every part of the country at a trifling expense. The cost of a copy, depending on the binding, may be learned in the advertisement. We recommend the pocket-book form as the most useful to physicians and students.

Dr. Howe's Instruments.—From time to time, for several years past, we have noticed the ingeniously-devised surgical instruments of Dr. Luke Howe, of Jaffrey, N. H. With a most accurate knowledge of human anatomy, he combines a mechanical genius that gives a superiority to his inventions over those which ordinarily come under our observation. No advantages are lost, and everything is gained in the application of them that is desirable in the eye of the surgeon. An effort should be

made to have navy and army surgeons supplied with them. Dr. Howe asks for neither patents nor pecuniary profit, and for this very reason we are compelled to speak cordially in behalf of modest merit, and untiring industry in the cause of practical benevolence. A list of Dr. H.'s instruments may be found on our advertising page.

Preservation and Propagation of Leeches.—An article of peculiar interest and importance to practitioners and naturalists, is commenced on the first page of this day's Journal. Enoch Hale, M.D., of this city, kindly forwarded the communication, for which we tender him our thanks.

Devotion to Medical Science.—From the Lowell Journal, a valuable paper with which we have exchanged many years, we take the following interesting paragraph. It will be recollected that Mr. Terry's death was recorded in this Journal at the time of its occurrence, but the circumstances alluded to in the extract were wholly unknown to us.

"It is stated in an obituary notice of Mr. John S. Terry, a medical student who died at South Boston, on the 18th ult. at the age of 24, that his attachment to the cause of medical science, and the nobleness of his disposition, were affectingly exhibited near his closing scene, when he called his weeping friends to his bed-side, and after observing that the medical faculty had been very kind to him, expressed a desire that his body, as the only return which he could make, might be given to them to promote that science, to which he had devoted his life, and which he could now serve only in death. When he found that friendship and affection would not consent to this, he expressed a desire to sleep beneath the shades of Mount Auburn. His class-mates immediately raised the sum necessary to erect a monument."

Retirement of Dr. Carswell from University College.—Dr. Carswell having been appointed physician to the King of the Belgians, has sent in his resignation, as professor of morbid anatomy in University College, and as physician to the hospital. On Dr. Carswell's retirement being known, a large meeting of the students took place, at which it was unanimously resolved to present an address to him, expressing their regret at the loss of his services, and their admiration of his character as an eminent cultivator of medical science, as a teacher, and as a man.—*Lancet.*

A Case of Typhoid Fever terminating in Acute Peritonitis.—Dr. Clark reported to the New York Medical and Surgical Society, the case of a girl, 19 years of age, who had led a dissolute life, stout, of sanguineo-lymphatic temperament, who was attacked with typhoid fever. The disease ran nearly its usual course till the eighteenth day. The typhoid eruption had appeared on the chest, arms, &c.; intellect was disturbed; there was deafness, moaning, prostration, tremulous and uncertain motion, but no gargouillement, or tenderness in the right iliac region, and no diarrhœa. On the eighteenth day of the disease, marked symptoms of peritonitis occurred. The pain, tenderness, &c., that indicated its invasion, were soon followed by green vomiting, tympanitis, &c., and in three days by death. On post-mortem examination, the intestines, liver and stomach

were found covered with a thick layer of plastic lymph; a small quantity of milky serum in the cavity of the abdomen. Lymph was found effused into the middle coat of the stomach, and what is believed to be very unusual, *between the layers of the peritoneal covering* of this organ. The mucous membrane of the stomach and of the jejunum was highly injected, but no *perforation* could be discovered; and *the glands of Peyer appeared perfectly healthy.—N. Y. Journal of Med. and Surg.*

Medical Miscellany.—Dr. Alcott has been writing a tract on the health of common schools.—Dr. Harlan's translation of the celebrated French work on embalming, meets with encouragement: it should be patronized, for it is a meritorious production.—There are nine persons over 100 years of age in the county of Hanover, N. C. One of the number is white, and 108 years old.—It is said that suits have been commenced against druggists in the United States, who in the aggregate are under bonds to the amount of $300,000, for infringing upon the right of Brandreth to manufacture pills. They deserve to be fined for imitating nothing better.—Thomas McFaden died at Embden, Me., Nov. 17th, at the age of 100 years and 21 days.—Medical students are reminded that the school of medicine, at Bowdoin College, will soon be in active operation. The board of faculty, with excellent and competent professors, the same as last year.—Dr. Davenport, of this city, known abroad by the valuable papers heretofore published in this Journal, on diseases of the eye, has recently performed the operation for the cure of strabismus, and succeeded admirably.—Dr. John Randolph has gone to England and France, as a government messenger, with despatches to our ministers in the two kingdoms.—Dr. Peter Parker, the celebrated American surgeon at Canton, has arrived at New York, from China. His loss must be greatly deplored in that country. He was often consulted by Chinese invalids from distances in the interior of the empire.—Cases for surgical practice seem to increase at the weekly examinations at the Medical College in Albany.—A lady of Salem has bequeathed twenty-five thousand dollars to the McLean Asylum for the support of the poor insane from the county of Essex.

To Correspondents.—Dr. Hayward's paper on the tendons, before alluded to, will appear next week; and the week following, the concluding No. of Dr. Paine's Reply, which has been crowded out by other articles, will be published.

Married,—At Gorham, Me., Dr. John Pierce, of Edgartown, Mass., to Miss C. McLellan.—At Westport, W. H. A. Crary, M.D., of Fall River, Mass., to Miss A. H. White.—At Hingham, Mass., Dr. J. H. Foster, of New York, to Miss M. H. Lincoln.

Died,—At Andover, Dr. Nathaniel Swift, 62.—At Philadelphia, suddenly, William Cheeks, M.D.

Number of deaths in Boston for the week ending Dec. 12, 20.—Males, 10—females, 10. Stillborn, 2.
Of consumption, 7—lung fever, 3—bilious fever, 1—infantile, 2—croup, 3—typhous fever, 1—old age, 1—apoplexy, 1—chronic ulcer of the bowels, 1.

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